

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
Monday 10th October 2022 at 7.00 pm
The Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple

Present: Councillors:

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, R Knight, J Carter, M Lovering, L York (Chair),
P Leaver, A Shah, S Jusef, R Mack, J Coates (Vice-Chair), J Orange,
G Marchewka, E George and G Kennedy

Also in attendance:

R Ward, Town Clerk
Mr T Steer, Tarka Rail Association
Mr D Greeno, The Veterans Charity
Cllr C Leaver, Devon County Council
Mr L Clarke, North Devon Journal
Members of the Public: 0

Apologies for absence:

Cllrs V Monk, V Elkins, A Windsor, J Phillips, A Rennles, T Clarkson
and V Nel

50 Apologies for absence.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved. (NC)

51 Dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

Cllrs I Roome, J Hunt, M Lovering, L York, R Mack & J Orange as
members of North Devon District Council, have a dispensation under
SO66 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item
refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two
authorities.

Cllr I Roome as a member of Devon County Council, have a
dispensation under SO66 to discuss and vote on any item on the
agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or
dispute between the two authorities.

52 Minutes of the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on
11th July 2022, are approved as a correct record and be signed by the
Chairman.

53 Mayor's Announcements.

Over the last couple of months, the Mayor has attended:

- Barnstaple Recruitment Fair in the Pannier Market.
- Broughton Civic Service
- The Barnstaple in Bloom Judging
- VJ Day Commemoration
- Bideford Regatta

- Fremington WI
- Petroc College Graduation
- Devon Association of Local Councils AGM

54 Bideford extension of the Tarka line, Atlantic Coast Exeter Railway.

The Town Council approved bringing the presentation by Mr Tim Steer to this point on the agenda.

Mr Steer provided councillors with information about the current status of the railway line and explained that there is a proposal to reconnect Bideford to the railway network.

Support is already in place for the proposal and Great Western Railway has contributed £6,500 to the project to help develop the case.

The funding will help the Tarka Rail Association to engage a specialist advisor to produce an initial business case.

As well as reinstating the connection to Bideford an intended outcome of the project would be a considerable improvement of the service between Barnstaple and Exeter.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council register its support for the project (NC)

55 Armed Forces Weekend for Barnstaple Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2023

The Town Council approved bringing the presentation by Mr Danny Greeno of The Veterans Charity to this point on the agenda.

Mr Greeno explained that the national celebration for Armed Forces Day in 2023 will be held in Falmouth, Cornwall.

Their objective is to create an event utilising the space and facilities of Rock Park and are, at this point looking for in principle support from the Town Council.

The initial proposal has been considered by the Rock Park Trust and the park is available that weekend.

RESOLVED: to offer support to the Veterans Charity and look forward to further updates (NC)

56 Report from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

Inspector A Wills had submitted his report to the Town Council prior to the meeting.

Councillors asked questions about the following issues and Insp Wills responded accordingly:

- Two reported attacks in the Gorwell and Bear St areas.
- Extra patrols have been put in place.
- Concerns were raised about reports that have come out through social media.

- Insp Wills asked people to provide reports through the Devon & Cornwall Police website 101 Non-Emergency page, the Town Clerk will share the link to the page with Councillors.

8.30pm - Cllr Shah left the meeting at this point

57 Reports from Devon County and North Devon District Councillors.

Devon County Council

Cllr C Leaver reported

- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation concludes on Wednesday.
- DCC have significant issues relating to their budget for this and the next financial years, more information will be coming out soon.
- The Rock Park footbridge repairs are still underway.

Cllr I Roome reported

- The Link Centres are still being monitored as they are still at risk, they provide services for some of the most vulnerable people in society.
- The latest data is indicating the Barnstaple has some of the most economically vulnerable neighbourhoods in the country.
- It has been requested that some of the footway barriers be removed in order to assist with accessibility for mobility scooter users.

North Devon Council

Cllr L York

- The £350,000 Safer Streets funding is now in place and the project is underway.
- Yeo Valley Woodland has achieved Green Flag status for the 11th year in succession.
- Town & Parish Councils are being considered as consultees for licensing applications.

Cllr I Roome

- North Devon Council is also impacted by budget pressures in this and the next financial year.
- Following its purchase Green Lanes shopping centre is currently generating income for North Devon Council.
- NDC are considering transferring public toilets to Town & Parish Councils.

58 Adoption of Committee Minutes

Committee	Date	Page Numbers
Heritage & Community	7 th July 2022	024 to 027
Planning & Transportation	21 st July 2022	032 to 034
Finance & General Purposes	25 th July 2022	035 to 039
Environment Committee	18 th August 2022	040 to 041
Planning & Transportation	18 th August 2022	042 to 045
Finance & General Purposes	23 rd August 2022	046 to 047

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the committee meetings and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted in accordance with Standing Order 24. (NC)

59 Minutes of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee of 13th July 2022

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Rock Park Trust Management Committee and the resolutions contained therein be received and adopted (NC).

60 Reports from Town Council representatives to outside bodies.

Cllr Shah had reported to the Town Clerk that he needed to stand down from the North Devon Councillor Advocate scheme, this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

61 The cost-of-living crisis

One Northern Devon are holding a workshop on 19th October that the Mayor and Town Clerk will be attending to investigate local needs and current support to local residents. A report will be brought back to the next meeting.

RECOMMEND: to form a working group to better understand the current local situation and responses that the Town Council can make, Cllrs Orange, Marchewka, Carter, Coates, York & Jusef put themselves forward.

62 Co-option to Casual Vacancy (Fort Hill Ward)

One candidate, Mr David Clayton had applied to fill the vacancy. After introducing himself to the council he was duly elected by a majority vote of the councillors present. Mr Clayton completed his "Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Councillor" and joined the meeting as a councillor.

63 Motion from Cllr R Knight for Proportional Representation to be used for general elections

Cllr Knight presented his motion and asked the Town Council to resolve to write to the Westminster Government in support of proportional representation for general elections.

Cllr Leaver spoke in support of the motion but asked for an amendment to be considered to include concerns raised about the implications of
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the Elections Act 2022 and the potential impact particularly in relation to the requirement for identity documents.

The Town Clerk raised concern that the amendment was significantly different to the original motion to not necessarily be valid to include in the same letter.

RECOMMEND: That two letters be sent to the Westminster Parliament relating to both matters (NC).

64

Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported:

Staffing

Two new staff members had recently been appointed to the posts of Assistant Town Clerk (Estates) and Heritage Manager.

The Guildhall Redevelopment Project

A meeting with the Consultants will be arranged soon.

The Shambles

Redecoration is nearly completed and it is currently being used by:

- The Safer Streets project, one day per week.
- Devon County Council Public Health, monthly
- NDVS Community Development
- North Devon Record Office held a 3 day exhibition in August with over 300 visitors.

North Devon Record Office

- Barnstaple Borough and Town Councils archive is currently being worked on to create a single catalogue and is the largest collection in the Record Office.
- An exhibition of the administration of Barnstaple is planned for 2023.

Activity Programme

A Fun Day on 24th October is planned for half-term in the Pannier Market, many of the activities will be free.

Taw U3A visually impaired group

The Town Clerk recently had a meeting with this group who are very concerned about the footways around the town, particularly the town centre and how many vulnerable people are injured through falls, as a result of tripping over.

65

To consider any questions asked by:

65a

Members of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 25

None received

65b

Public registered electors in the town in accordance with Standing Order 85.

None received

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: